











-  **1 TAKE THE CHALLENGE.** Read for 20 minutes, five days a week, from June-August. That equals 15 hours of reading time throughout the summer.
-  **2 ON THE BACK PAGE YOU WILL FIND A BOOKMARK TO KEEP TRACK OF YOUR PROGRESS.** Color a star each day as you read for 20 minutes.
-  **3 DESIGN A STAR READING PLAN** that is bright and right for you and your family.
-  **4 BEGIN BY MARKING THE STARS** for your top two or three activities that sound fun and exciting in your monthly calendar. (You can always choose more or less.)
-  **5 CONNECT TO SUMMER READING PROGRAMS AT YOUR SCHOOL, LIBRARY, AND IN YOUR COMMUNITY.** If you attend year-round school, your reading program hours count.
-  **6 EVERY FAMILY MEMBER IS ENCOURAGED TO READ AS OFTEN AS THEY CAN.** Record the number of minutes read each day on your calendar. Add them up weekly and monthly, then celebrate your progress.
-  **7 BE A STAR READER BY SUMMER'S END** and shine when school begins in the fall.
-  **8 READ TOGETHER EVERY DAY - THINGS LIKE:** Traffic signs, magazines, comics, billboards, cooking recipes, cereal boxes. Read an underwater adventure as you sit by a lake or pond.
-  **9 TEACH YOUR CHILD NEW WORDS.** Talk about daily activities such as driving, cooking, cleaning or fixing the car. Tell your child what you are doing and explain words like boil, yield or scrub. Encourage your child to reenact or talk to you about grocery shopping, trips to grandma's, trips on a bus or train, etc. and use the words your child learned.
-  **10 KEEP A NOTEBOOK TO RECORD THE THINGS YOU LEARN AND EXPERIENCE DURING YOUR SUMMER READING ADVENTURE.**

BRIGHT REASONS FOR READING WITH A CHILD 20 MINUTES EVERY DAY:

The first five years of a child's life are a sensitive time for the brain to build language connections. The more words a child hears, the more they will understand and use. Children learn language from people who read to them, talk to them and listen to them, not only from watching TV. Children who know and use lots of words are much more likely to become successful readers. Children who have been read with 20 minutes a day from birth receive at least 600 hours of literacy experience by the time they enter kindergarten just from books.

In one school year, children spend 7,500 hours at home and only 900 hours in school. Between birth and age 19, children spend just 9% of their lives in school and 91% of their lives elsewhere. What parents do with their children when they are not in school has a powerful effect on learning.

Parent involvement improves a child's academic achievement regardless of socioeconomic status, or the parent's education level. The average child entering kindergarten has a vocabulary of approximately 5,000-6,000 words. Some children enter with a vocabulary of only 1,200-1,400 words.

Reading time is important time. Don't let TV, videos, video games, and other activities cut into family reading time. Reading Power . . . it's in you!



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